

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:

1. (*Currently Amended*) An automatic performance apparatus[[.]] comprising:
 - a storage device that stores performance data and accompaniment pattern data having a plurality of sections;
 - a detector that detects a specific note in the performance data;
 - a reproduction device that simultaneously reproduces the performance data and a section of the accompaniment pattern data; and
 - a controller that controls the reproduction device to change switch reproduction of the section at of the accompaniment pattern data to another section of the accompaniment pattern data when a reproduction point of the performance data by said reproduction device reaches a point of corresponding to the detected specific note.

2. (*Currently Amended*) An automatic performance apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:
 - the detector detects a first note of the performance data, and
 - the controller controls the reproduction device to reproduce a first section of the accompaniment pattern data from a beginning of the performance data to a top or end of a measure having the detected first note and to reproduce a second section of the accompaniment pattern data after the first section.

3. (*Currently Amended*) An automatic performance apparatus ~~according to claim 1, wherein~~ comprising:
 - a storage device that stores performance data and accompaniment pattern data having a plurality of sections;
 - a detector that detects a specific note in the performance data;
 - a reproduction device that simultaneously reproduces the performance data and the accompaniment pattern data; and
 - a controller that controls the reproduction device to change the section at a point of the detected specific note,
 - wherein the detector further detects a blank section of the performance data, and
 - wherein the controller further controls the reproduction device to reproduce a third section for the detected blank section.

4. (*Original*) An automatic performance apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the controller further controls the reproduction device to reproduce a fourth section for the detected blank section when the detected blank section is shorter than a specific time length.

5. (*Currently Amended*) An automatic performance apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:
the detector further detects a last note of the performance data, and
the controller further controls the reproduction device to reproduce a fifth section after the detected last note.

6. (*Currently Amended*) ~~[[An]] A computer-readable medium storing an~~ automatic performance program ~~which a computer executes~~, comprising the instructions for:
reading performance data and accompaniment pattern data having a plurality of sections from a storage device;
detecting a specific note in the performance data;
simultaneously reproducing the performance data and a section of the accompaniment pattern data; and
controlling the reproduction device to ~~change~~ switch reproduction of the section at of the accompaniment pattern data to another section of the accompaniment pattern data when a reproduction point of the performance data by said reproduction device reaches a point of corresponding to the detected specific note.